

Tres Koenings - permit # wq0004297000, Shafter mine; TCEQ

From: monroe elms <monroe.elms@gmail.com>
To: <akoening@tceq.state.tx.us>
Date: 7/3/2011 12:19 PM
Subject: permit # wq0004297000, Shafter mine; TCEQ

*1WD
74897*

Dear Mr. Tres Koenings,

I wrote in to comment on the Shafter Water Permit no.wq0004297000. After careful investigation as to the full impact of the environment in and around Shafter, Texas, I can find nothing wrong with the process that Rio Grande Mining intends to apply. I have been asking all the questions I could, so as to determine if any long lasting effects would be felt after the mine is gone.

I am satisfied with the answers that Sandy Bruce has provided to me about the concerns that I had. It appears that Sandy Bruce in working for the Rio Grande mining Co., is doing everything correct, to protect the environment from any long term negative effects. I hear-by with draw my complaint. I am satisfied that with the State and Rio Grande Mining Co. working together to prevent any major problems from accruing , that Presidio Co. should permit the application to proceed. As the only Retired Presidio Co. Judge, whom lives in Shafter, and who as my record will show, made the last mine, American Metals, spend more than 2 million dollars to clean up their old mill site , here in Shafter. I can speak as an advocate of protecting the environment of Shafter, Presidio Co, and other Areas of the Southwest. I hope that you will share this letter with the Commission and let them know that I will speak with anyone who has any question as to why the permit should be granted.

Thank You, Presidio County retired Judge, William Monroe Elms

OPA
JUL 12 2011
[Signature]
BY _____

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
JUL 12 AM 11:46
CHIEF CLERKS OFFICE

[Handwritten initials]

From: PUBCOMMENT-OPA
To: PUBCOMMENT-OCC2
Date: 11/18/2010 11:08 AM
Subject: Fwd: Public comment on Permit Number WQ0004297000
Place: PUBCOMMENT-OCC2

IWD
74897

>>> PUBCOMMENT-OCC 11/18/2010 9:33 AM >>>

>>> <monroeelms@hotmail.com> 11/18/2010 9:11 AM >>>

REGULATED ENTY NAME SHAFTER MINE
RN NUMBER: RN100812502
PERMIT NUMBER: WQ0004297000
DOCKET NUMBER:
COUNTY: PRESIDIO
PRINCIPAL NAME: RIO GRANDE MINING CO
CN NUMBER: CN600495493
FROM
NAME: Monroe Elms
E-MAIL: monroeelms@hotmail.com
COMPANY: retired Presidio Co. Judge
ADDRESS: PO BOX 43
MARFA TX 79843-0043
PHONE: 4326144317
FAX:

COMMENTS: If the State of Texas allows the Shafter mine to dump polluted water into a dry stream bed that will in time, enter the Rio Grande River, is wrong and should not be allowed for any reasons. The Rio Grande is controlled by the IWBC and I am sure they will not permit the dumping of polluted water that will make its way into the River. If allowed to dump this polluted water into the water shed, it will have a long and negative effect on the people, the environment, and tourism, in the Big Bend area and in Mexico. I hope and pray that whom ever reads this will take time to understand the negative and long lasting effects this will have on us in Shafter and the whole Rio Grande Basin..Thanks, Retired Presido County Judge, William Monroe Elms

MCD

From: PUBCOMMENT-OPA
To: PUBCOMMENT-OCC2
Date: 11/5/2010 8:39 AM
Subject: Fwd: Public comment on Permit Number WQ0004297000
Place: PUBCOMMENT-OCC2

IWD
74897

>>> PUBCOMMENT-OCC 11/4/2010 4:00 PM >>>

>>> <larrylaurence@yahoo.com> 11/4/2010 3:56 PM >>>

REGULATED ENTY NAME SHAFTER MINE
RN NUMBER: RN100812502
PERMIT NUMBER: WQ0004297000
DOCKET NUMBER:
COUNTY: PRESIDIO
PRINCIPAL NAME: RIO GRANDE MINING CO
CN NUMBER: CN600495493

FROM

NAME: Randy Laurence
E-MAIL: larrylaurence@yahoo.com

COMPANY:

ADDRESS: 4289 FM 1664
QUEMADO TX 78877-7815

PHONE: 8307571222

FAX:

COMMENTS: As a resident living somewhat downstream of this proposed disposal of liquid waste, I am disturbed by the volume of the waste and the lack of information being made public about the nature of the waste. This area is arid, and water is the limiting factor; allowing large volumes of water to be discharged will create several ecological repercussions that should be heavily investigated before the discharge is allowed. Uncontaminated water alone will have a great affect, creating a false microenvironment endangering those species that have evolved locally to exist without copious amounts of water. Competition with incoming species that do not have these adaptations and exist with large amounts of water will put local flora and fauna at risk. Furthermore, if this water is stored in open ponds/lagoons, how will migratory waterfowl be affected by direct contact with the water? But I think the water has materials in it that are harmful for the environment, otherwise the applicants would be using the water for other purposes. Granting this permit will allow the water to enter the drainage basin of the Rio Grande river which is the only water supply for many communities downstream including mine. And the argument that evaporation will dissapate the impact is erroneuous; the dissolved materials will be left on the surface

MCD

awaiting the next thunderstorm to wash them into the Rio Grande, and downstream to me and thousands of others. The water should be treated by the applicants and the expense absorbed as part of their operating costs. If the cost of treatment is greater than their profit margin, then the permit application will be withdrawn. Allowing the disposal of this waste as proposed would pass the cost of treatment (their profits!) to those living locally and downstream. Do not allow the contamination of my watershed!

TEXAS
COMMISSION
ON ENVIRONMENTAL
QUALITY

2011 JUL 18 AM 10:14

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JUL 18 2011

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From: PUBCOMMENT-OPA
To: PUBCOMMENT-OCC2
Date: 11/3/2010 1:01 PM
Subject: Fwd: Public comment on Permit Number WQ0004297000
Place: PUBCOMMENT-OCC2

>>> PUBCOMMENT-OCC 11/3/2010 11:20 AM >>>

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>>> <fresnof15@mac.com> 11/3/2010 11:00 AM >>>

REGULATED ENTY NAME SHAFTER MINE
RN NUMBER: RN100812502
PERMIT NUMBER: WQ0004297000
DOCKET NUMBER:
COUNTY: PRESIDIO
PRINCIPAL NAME: RIO GRANDE MINING CO
CN NUMBER: CN600495493

FROM

NAME: Mary Lane Williams
E-MAIL: fresnof15@mac.com

COMPANY:

ADDRESS: HC 67 BOX 29
MARFA TX 79843-9802

PHONE: 4323584454

FAX:

COMMENTS: I am extremely concerned about the requester's intent to dispose of wastewater from the Shafter mine. This area of Texas may not be heavily inhabited, but the residents that do live here are ranchers and farmers and we rely on the land to sustain us. Additionally, I believe that there is potential for the the flow of wastewater from Shafter to the Rio Grande valley could contaminate the Rio Grande river and the Big Bend National Park. The environmental impact of such a proposal must be fully understood and vetted with the people who live in this region before any such proposal is allowed to proceed. Please provide the types and levels of contaminants that will be in the wastewater as well as an explanation of why such a large volume of wastewater (360,000 gallons per day) disposal would be required. The people of this area also need to understand how the TCEQ and/or other government agencies will monitor the water quality and ensure that the Rio Grande Mining Company is complying with all regulatory and statutory requirements for disposal. Thank you, Mary Lane Williams Marfa, Texas

MW